

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 14522 01 OF 02 131212Z

42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 SAJ-01

/138 W

----- 002459

R 131200Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5003

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14522

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: BRANDT BOOK SPARKS NEW CONTROVERSY

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE PUBLICATION IN SPIEGEL THIS WEEK OF A PREVIEW OF WILLY BRANDT'S BOOK "BEYOND THE PRESENT" (WHICH WILL BE SERIALIZED IN THE NEXT ISSUES OF THE NEWS MAGAZINE) HAS ADDED FUEL TO THE GUILAUME CONTROVERSY AND OPENED UP SOME BARELY HEALED WOUNDS. THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT HAS LED TO RENEWED SPECULATION THAT SPD FRAKTION LEADER WEHNER WOULD RESIGN. WHILE THIS IS FAR FROM CERTAIN GIVEN WEHNER'S CLEVERNESS AND SCHMIDT'S NEED TO MAINTAIN THE APPEARANCE OF SPD UNITY FOR ELECTION PURPOSES, THE CONTROVERSY WILL DO LITTLE TO HELP THE ALREADY STRAINED RELATIONS IN THE SOCIAL-LIBERAL COALITION. END SUMMARY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 14522 01 OF 02 131212Z

1- THE APPEARANCE OF WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED A BRANDT BOMB-

SHELL IN THE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE SPIEGEL HAS HEATED UP THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE ARREST OF BRANDT'S ADVISOR GUILLAUME AS AN EAST GERMAN SPY WHICH LED TO BRANDT'S RESIGNATION AS CHANCELLOR. THE PREVIEW PICTURES WEHNER AS A MOVING FORCE IN THE BRANDT RESIGNATION AND AS A MAN WHO LET HIS FRIEND DOWN WHEN THE GOING GOT ROUGH. OF EQUAL POLITICAL IMPORTANCE, THIS ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO GUILLAUME'S ARREST INDICATES THAT GENSCHER AS INTERIOR MINISTER WAS LESS THAN FORTHCOMING, AT LEAST IN THE EARLY STAGES, IN ADVISING BRANDT AS TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CHARGES AGAINST GUILLAUME.

2. BRANDT HAS SINCE GONE ON TV AND DENIED THAT THE SPIEGEL PREVIEW WAS AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF WHAT IS IN HIS BOOK. WHEN PRESSED BY THE INTERVIEWER AS TO HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH WEHNER (GENERALLY ACCEPTED AS COOL AT BEST SINCE WEHNER UNDERCUT BRANDT'S OSTPOLITIK DURING A VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST YEAR), THE EX-CHANCELLOR SAID THAT HE HAD VOTED FOR WEHNER FOR FRAKTION LEADER AND THAT HE BELIEVED BOTH MEN "RESPECTED" EACH OTHER'S WORK. HE ALSO DENIED CRITICIZING GENSCHER'S HANDLING OF THE SPY CASE.

3. SOME OBSERVERS FEEL THAT THE BRANDT REVELATIONS COUPLED WITH THE RECENT FINANCIAL SCANDAL WHICH LED TO THE RESIGNATION OF WEHNER PROTEGE AND FRAKTION WHIP, WIENAND WILL LEAD TO WEHNER'S RESIGNATION. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT WEHNER'S ENEMIES WITHIN THE SPD AS WELL AS OUTSIDE ARE NUMEROUS. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS SOME OLD SCORES TO SETTLE (E.G., WEHNER ONCE PREVENTED SCHMIDT FROM BECOMING MAYOR OF HAMBURG AND ALSO STYMIED HIS BID TO BECOME PARTY LEADER IN LOWER SAXONY). HOWEVER, WEHNER REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST CLEVER AND ASTUTE POLITICIANS IN GERMANY AND IS STILL A POLITICAL FORCE IN THE SPD. SCHMIDT MUST THEREFORE THINK TWICE BEFORE HE TAKES ON WEHNER BOTH BECAUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 14522 02 OF 02 131218Z

42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 SAJ-01

/138 W

----- 002532

R 131200Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5004

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 14522

OF THE BLOODINESS OF SUCH A BATTLE AND THE PICTURE OF
DISUNITY IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SPD WHICH WOULD EMERGE
JUST BEFORE THE LAND ELECTIONS IN HESSE AND BAVARIA.

4. THE CHARGE THAT GENSCHER WAS NEGLIGENT IN WARNING
BRANDT ABOUT GUILLAUME WILL PERHAPS CAUSE EVEN GREATER
POLITICAL MISCHIEF IN THAT IT OPENS AN OLD AND DEEP
WOUND. THERE ARE MANY SPD MEMBERS WHO ARE BITTER BECAUSE
THEY FEEL THAT GENSCHER NEVER ACCEPTED HIS SHARE OF THE
BLAME IN THE SPY CASE AND PERHAPS EVEN CONSPIRED WITH
SCHMIDT AND WEHNER TO FORCE BRANDT TO RESIGN. WHATEVER
THE MERIT OF THESE CHARGES, THE REOPENING OF THE AFFAIR
IS LIKELY TO STRAIN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COALITION
PARTNERS. WHILE NO ONE EXPECTED, GIVEN THEIR PERSONALI-
TIES, THAT SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER WOULD HAVE THE WARM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 14522 02 OF 02 131218Z

RELATIONS BRANDT AND SCHEEL DEVELOPED, A ROUND OF WHO
STRUCK JOHN COULD MAKE MATTERS EVEN WORSE THAN THEY ARE.

5. THE QUESTION OF WHY BRANDT CHOSE THIS MOMENT IS A
MYSTERY. IT MAY BE THAT THE SPIEGEL PREVIEW EXAGGERATED
AND SENSATIONALIZED ANY HINT OF CRITICISM IN BRANDT'S
BOOK BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN CLEAR TO BRANDT THAT ANY
REHASHING OF THE AFFAIR WOULD LEAD TO SPECULATION ABOUT
A POWER PLAY TO DISPOSE HIM. BRANDT IS A COMPLEX
AND HIGHLY SENSITIVE MAN, HOWEVER, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT
THAT HE HAS BEEN SMARTING UNDER THE CRUEL TWIST OF FATE

WHICH LED HIM FROM THE HEIGHTS OF THE GREATEST SPD
ELECTION VICTORY AND THE NOBEL PRIZE TO THE DEPTHS OF
RESIGNATION, IF NOT IN DISGRACE AT LEAST UNDER A CLOUD.
IT WOULD THEREFORE SEEM PLAUSIBLE THAT HE
COULDN'T RESIST THE OPPORTUNITY TO SET THE RECORD
STRAIGHT.

6- WHETHER THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT WILL LEAD TO WEHNER'S
RESIGNATION IS NOT CLEAR ALTHOUGH ON BALANCE IT WOULD
SEEM THAT HE COULD SURVIVE IT. TO DATE, BOTH GENSCHER
AND SCHMIDT HAVE REMAINED SILENT AND BRANDT HAS CALLED
THE WHOLE THING A CREATION OF THE PRESS. HOWEVER, THE
BRANDT BOOK WITH ITS IMPLIED CRITICISM OF GENSCHER WILL
DAMAGE THE ALREADY UNEASY RELATIONS WITHIN THE SPD-FDP
COALITION.
HILLENBRAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOOKS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN14522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740256-0551
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740949/aaaabplf.tel
Line Count: 185
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRANDT BOOK SPARKS NEW CONTROVERSY BEGIN SUMMARY: THE PUBLICATION IN SPIEGEL THIS WEEK OF A
TAGS: PINT, GE, (BRANDT, WILLY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005